



Report to the Auburn City Council

Action Item
Agenda Item No. 8
City Manager's Approval

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Reg Murray, Senior Planner
Date: March 9, 2009
Subject: Planning Commission Consensus Memo (2009)

The Issue

Informational item only.

Conclusions and Recommendations

No action is required.

Background

The Auburn City Council passed a resolution in January, 2007, which stated that the Planning Commission may, on an annual basis in February, submit a consensus memo to the City Council identifying their priority planning issues for the subsequent year. On February 17, 2009, the Auburn Planning Commission reviewed their planning priorities for the coming year. Based on their discussion, the Planning Commission identified four priority items which are detailed in the attached memo for the City Council's review and consideration (Attachment 1). Attached to the memo is a copy of the current priority projects list maintained by the Community Development Department.

Over the past couple of years, the Historic Design Review Commission (HDRC) has also reviewed their priorities at the same time as the Planning Commission. The HDRC's primary interest is still an update of the sign ordinance. The HDRC is also interested in relaxing temporary sign standards due to the current economy as well as scoping out the potential issues that an update of the sign ordinance would need to address.

Alternatives Available; Implications of Alternatives

No action is required.

Fiscal Impact

Allocation of staff time to: a) support an *ad hoc* commission for the Trails Master Plan; b) scope out issues for the HDRC related to an update to the sign ordinance; and c) support the temporary application of temporary sign regulations.

Attachments:

1. Planning Commission Consensus Memo w/ attached Priority Projects List
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Memorandum

City of Auburn
Community Development Department

To:	Mayor Holmes and City Council Members
From:	Auburn Planning Commission
By:	Reg Murray, Senior Planner <i>RAM</i>
Date:	March 9, 2009
Subject:	Planning Commission Consensus Memo Regarding Priority Planning Issues (2009)

On January 22, 2007, the Auburn City Council passed a resolution which stated that the Planning Commission may, on an annual basis in February, review priority planning issues and submit a consensus memo to the City Council. The Auburn Planning Commission reviewed planning issues at their meeting on February 17, 2009 and identified four priority issues (listed below).

1. The Planning Commission reaffirms interest in updating the Sign Ordinance;
2. The Planning Commission supports the review of parking standards;
3. The Planning Commission reaffirms interest in updating the Zoning Ordinance, currently being conducted by the Auburn Community Development Department;
4. The Planning Commission reaffirms interest in developing a Trails Master Plan. The Commission also requests that the City Council establish an *ad hoc* committee to begin work on a Trails Master Plan.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT - SPECIAL PROJECTS LIST
(2/17/09)

Project

Comments

	PLANNING COMMISSION	
1	Sign Ordinance Update*	* Commission priority Update Auburn Sign Ordinance (3/26/07)
2	Parking Standards	Review zoning ordinance parking standards including parking ratios and treatment of Downtown/Old Town vs. rest of the City (Nesbitt/Smith). <u>Update currently in process.</u>
3	Zoning Ordinance Update	<u>CDD currently preparing the first administrative draft. Commission review is anticipated to start in the next 3-6 months.</u>
4	Trails Master Plan	2/5/08 - Establish a Trails Master Plan (Worthington); 2/17/09 - The Planning Commission requests that an <i>ad hoc</i> committee be established to begin working on the Trails Master Plan.
	HDRC	
5	Sign Ordinance	* Commission priority Review sign ordinance with respect to historic areas; what is allowed and not allowed; what constitutes a window sign? (Smith/Elder); 2/17/09 - The HDRC is interested in a) temporarily relaxing the standards for temporary signs due to the economy, and b) scoping out the potential issues that an update to the sign ordinance would need to address. Review color palette for historic colors. Completed 1/20/09.
6	Historic Colors*	
	STAFF	
7	Major Projects for 2009*	* Staff priority a) Baltimore Ravine Specific Plan b) Costco c) Hampton Inn
8	Zoning Ordinance Update	Update the Auburn Zoning Ordinance (<i>in process</i>)
9	Housing Element Implementation	Complete programs from the 2008-2013 Housing Element
10	Housing Conditions Survey	Enables grant application for housing rehabilitation assistance program
11	General Plan Implementation	Complete programs from the General Plan
12	School Park Preserve	Development Agreement and Park Management Plan
13	Animal Control Ordinance	Update coordinated with Code Enforcement and Police

14	General Plan Update	Establish process for annual (?) updates to the General Plan on an element-by-element basis. Establish a fee surcharge for the general plan process
15	Subdivision Ordinance	Revise to be consistent with the subdivision map act (e.g. AMC allows three one-year extensions vs. five one-year extensions in the subdivision map act).
16	Plan List	Create a list of "plans" that we could use to determine if a project falls within a plan (i.e. Auburn Ravine Trail Plan; non-auto circulation plan).
17	CDBG Business Loan Program	
18	CDBG Business Loans	
19	CDBG Grants	Monitor existing grants; process grant applications
20	CDBG Boys & Girls Club	
21	General Plan Land Use Map	Finalize digital update of the General Plan Land Use Map

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